

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 9, and 18 have been currently amended. Claims 15-17 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1-14 and 18 thus remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under §§ 102 and 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 15, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bischof et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2004/0041827 A1) and rejects claims 12-14 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bischof et al. Applicants disagree with these rejections because Bischof et al. do not teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in independent claims 1 and 18, as currently amended. These claims have been amended for clarity in response to the Examiner's comments in the Office Action and to more effectively point out how the claimed invention differs from the teachings in Bischof et al. No new matter has been introduced by way of any of the current claim amendments, and ample support for the current claim amendments can be found in the specification (see, e.g., paragraphs [0014]-[0015], [0019], [0029]-[0031], and [0034]).

Claim 1. Currently amended independent claim 1 recites, among other things, the limitation "... the alteration of the one of the auxiliary data items indicating a particular manner in which the associated application has been altered." Bischof et al. teach detecting changes in state of user-interface elements as a user interacts with an application (e.g., detecting whether or not a radio button has been activated or whether or not a checkbox is checked) in connection with the generation of test scripts (see, e.g., paragraphs [0037] and [0046] of Bischoff et al.). In contrast, claim 1 concerns, among other things, using recognized alterations of auxiliary data items (e.g., metadata) associated with an application (1) to detect that the application itself (e.g., the code that generates a user-interface element) has been altered and how it has been altered; (2)

to identify which already-existing test scripts are associated with the altered portion of the application; and (3) to report the identified test scripts to a user so that the identified test scripts can be updated to operate successfully with the altered application. The above-quoted limitation "... the alteration of the one of the auxiliary data items indicating a particular manner in which the associated application has been altered" is thus not taught or suggested by Bischoff et al.

Currently amended claim 1 also recites the limitation "wherein the indication that one of the auxiliary data items has been altered is received and the test scripts that correspond to the altered one of the auxiliary data items are identified without the application having to be executed." Bischoff et al. teach executing an application to record changes in state of the user-interface elements of an application as a user interacts with the application. Bischoff et al. therefore require that the application be executed for their techniques to be applied. In stark contrast, claim 1 recites that "the indication that one of the auxiliary data items has been altered is received and the test scripts that correspond to the altered one of the auxiliary data items are identified without the application having to be executed."

Because Bischoff et al. do not teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in currently amended claim 1, Applicant believes currently amended claim 1 to be allowable. Each of claims 2-14 is thus also allowable at least by virtue of its depending from allowable claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under § 102(e) and of claims 12-14 under § 103 is respectfully requested.

Claim 18. Independent system claim 18 has been currently amended in a manner analogous to claim 1. Arguments similar to those above in connection with currently amended claim 1 also apply to currently amended claim 18.

Because Bischoff et al. do not teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in currently amended claim 18, Applicant believes currently amended claim 18 to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 under § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, requests an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions or comments arise.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

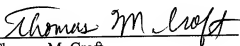
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